

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 801

By Carr D

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate violinist Ben Parton, a member of the 2014 National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those young people who, through their natural talents and extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as outstanding citizens of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable young person is 18-year-old violinist Ben Parton of Sevierville who has been selected as a 2014 member of the renowned National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America; his impressive accomplishment is bested only by this being the second consecutive year of receiving an invitation to join this august body; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the magnitude of his accomplishment, Ben Parton stated, "It means the world to be able to do it again. I can't even believe how blessed I am to be able to do it again. Even making it in once is the opportunity of a lifetime, but doing it twice is unbelievable."; and

WHEREAS, Ben Parton is one of only five 2013 orchestra members to be selected for a position in this year's orchestra, which is most gratifying for him; and he is this State's only musician selected to join the 2014 orchestra; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parton is a violin virtuoso who began playing his beloved instrument at age 5, and his goal in life is to become a concert master in an orchestra, which is something he now does with the Knoxville Symphony Youth Orchestra as a nine-year member; and

WHEREAS, his ardent childhood dream has been to perform in New York City's storied Carnegie Hall, which is the exact venue where this year's National Youth Orchestra will give its

debut performance on July 22nd; soon thereafter, the orchestra will embark on an extensive tour to perform at multiple concert venues across the nation; and

WHEREAS, 2013 was the inaugural year of the National Youth Orchestra, and Carnegie Hall's active renovation precluded the orchestra's performance therein; however, "the experience of a lifetime" was Ben's description of the ensuing tour, which included performances at the State of New York's Purchase College, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., concert halls in Moscow and St. Petersburg, and the renowned Royal Albert Hall in London; and

WHEREAS, the youth orchestra consists of 120 of the finest musicians age 16 through 19, who undergo a rigorous and multi-faceted audition process, which includes video recordings of performances of a piece of choice music and of excerpts of prescribed music pieces; also, candidates must submit recordings of them speaking and answering questions posed to them; finally, candidates must prepare and submit an essay and a biography; and

WHEREAS, Ben Parton's family is ecstatic about his hard-earned honor and simply could not be prouder of their talented musician who is a very respectful and kind person; and

WHEREAS, Ben Parton is a passionate and disciplined violinist, and his future is bright, indeed. Performing at Carnegie Hall later this year will mark the culmination of his childhood dream, but it will quite possibly be only the first of many performances in that hallowed place and other such magnificent performance halls for this outstanding young Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that this legislative body thoughtfully consider and genuinely commend this most talented and musically gifted young man at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize Ben Parton of Sevierville as one of our most talented young Tennesseans, congratulate him for his selection as a member of the 2014 National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America, give him special commendation on his second consecutive selection as an orchestra member, and extend our best wishes to him to thoroughly

enjoy the culmination of his childhood dream, when he performs at Carnegie Hall in New York City on July 22, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.